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SUBJECT Evaluation of Soviet Medical Book

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BELKOVYYE TELA, OBMEN VESHCHESTV I NERVNAYA REGULYATSIYA by Kh S Koshtoyants (Akad. Nauk SSSR, Moscow, 1951; 100 pp)

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3. The title of the book under review could be translated "Protein Metabolism and Nervous Regulation". It is a very short summary of twenty years of experimental work by Koshtoyants and his associates in this field. It appears from the bibliography that they had previously published 69 papers concerned with this topic. The booklet is concerned with general theoretical physiology and in it Koshtoyants reports many experiments performed mostly on frogs. His field is however a special one and the value of these experiments is not immediately clear

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the arguments he presents appeared rather slippery and inconclusive to me.

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4. One thing should be mentioned. Instead of starting from experiments, as might be normally expected, Koshtoyants in his presentation starts from general conceptions. At the very beginning of the book he furnishes a detailed description and analysis of the dialectical materialistic postulates of Engels, Lenin, Stalin, etc, and in the booklet he treats these postulates as indisputable axioms. The purpose of this book, therefore, is to support

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50X1 these general theses with experimental evidence and [redacted] when his experimental results are in disagreement with these postulates, the 50X1 author omits them. This booklet, therefore, is [redacted] a rare exception to usual Soviet medical literature. Of course all Soviet scientists must mention in their works the features of dialectical materialism but normally these quotations are only loosely connected with the valid 50X1 facts reported in the text. [redacted] almost all readers of Soviet medical literature pay no attention to these unavoidable political sentences. The only exceptions were party men who were in charge of censorship and who tried to prevent any deviation from general party line. In contrast to 50X1 this sort of text Koshtoyants' book does its best to show the correctness of the postulates of dialectical materialism. The booklet is designed 50X1 [redacted] to be read by general biologists and physiologists. It concerns itself with pure theoretical science and has very little on the applied science side.

-end-

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